

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (currently amended) An *in-vitro* cell free method for identifying agents that are inhibitors of tau-beta amyloid complex formation comprising:
  - (a) contacting a tau protein derived polypeptide and an aggregated beta-amyloid peptide in the presence and absence of a test agent; and
  - (b) determining the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the presence and absence of the test agent; and
  - (c) comparing the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the presence of the test agent with the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the absence of the test agent wherein a test agent which decreases the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed is an inhibitor.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues 244-390 of SEQ ID NO:2.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues 186-332 of SEQ ID NO:4.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues 186-279 of SEQ ID NO:6.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-39 of SEQ ID NO:7.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-40 of SEQ ID NO:7.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-41 of SEQ ID NO:7.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-42 of SEQ ID NO:7.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of residues 1-43 of SEQ ID NO:7.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by scintillation proximity assay.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by turbidity measurement.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by gel shift assay.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by antibody binding.

15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by ELISA.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by Western blotting.

17. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by fluorescence polarization.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tau protein derived polypeptide is labeled.

20. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tau protein derived polypeptide comprises a tag.